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This introduction is admirably conceived and executed. It gives an insight into the state of knowledge and spirit of the times and presents a general view of the scenery and nature of the dialogues in a style that students should find attractive. The methods, personality and character of Socrates are vividly portrayed. This is very well accomplished in part by interweaving translations of appropriate selections from other works of Plato and one from the *Memorabilia* of Xenophon. In this way a deeper interest in the ancient authors may be stimulated—a highly desirable result, for the reading of classical students is confined to altogether too few of the masterpieces. So the editor does well to lead his readers to the sources by placing in his introduction, for illustrating the art of Socrates, these “scraps from the sumptuous profusion spread out in the Platonic writings”. The author is thus made to serve as his own introduction—an excellent plan when possible.

Following the introduction is a brief but useful chronological table of important events, from the birth of Socrates to his death. An appendix contains a table of various readings. The absence of an English index is to be regretted.

The proof-reading has not been quite as accurate as we have a right to demand. In the summary on p. 50 “distinguish educator” is a case of haplography. Other errors are *av* for *av*, p. 62, l. 5; *Μεληρός* p. 64, l. 3; 23 C for 24 C, p. 66, in the summary; fire for stone, p. 72, in the summary; *Ἀμφίπολει*, p. 81, l. 3; 18 D for 18 E, and *ἔγαν γωιγε* p. 164, s. v. *ἀξιοῦν*; 17 D for 17 B, p. 182, s. v. *λόγος*. There are also some unfortunate instances of imperfect typography, as on pp. 60, 65, 68, 126, 156, 205, especially on p. 68. All these are minor defects, however, and do not seriously impair the usefulness and general excellence of the work, which should prove a highly satisfactory text-book for college classes.

ROScoe GUERNSEY

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

LAURIGER HORATIUS

In these degenerate days when colleges and universities have practically thrown the Classics overboard for the sake of courses in insurance and business management it is pleasant to find men wholly removed from academic influences standing up for a poet who was not without honor a generation ago. The brilliant Gladstonian days when a Greek quotation was not unusual in Parliament and a mistake in Latin quantity was hooted have gone by, but however elderly it may be, the generation still lives that can understand an allusion to Pyrrha and Lallage, to a man “integer vitae sclerisque purus”, to a monument more lasting than brass, or to the hatred of “Persicos apparatus”, the Frenchified fuss of Thackeray. For such has been compiled the

“Horace” by Charles Loomis Dana and John Cotton Dana (The Elm Tree Press, Woodstock, Vt.).

It is clearly a labor of love. The translations of the poems are arranged according to subjects, and though the editor's select from all who have made a try at rendering the Latin poet into English, from Dryden to Eugene Field, they hold in the main to the excellent versions of Sir Stephen de Vere, the brother of Aubrey de Vere. A number of entertaining essays are prefixed, among them an ingenious autobiography put together from the *Epistles* and *Satires*, a disquisition on Horace's ailments by Dr. Dana, and a careful account of the geography of his poems. While Horace is above all others the poet of the man of the world, he betrays more human feeling in his poems according to modern standards than any other Latin poet save Catullus. This selection brings that element out distinctly.

Typographically the book is very attractive. There are many illustrations, some from modern pictures, but the greater number from the quaint eighteenth century wood cuts used to illustrate Francis's translation.—*New York Sun*, May 2, 1908.

RES VARIAE

The Royal Museum authorities in Berlin have just published the text of a fine collection of Greek papyri discovered by Dr. Rubensohn on Elephantine, an island in the Nile opposite Assuan, and deciphered by the discoverer. One of the most interesting documents is a marriage contract of 310 B. C. This was the time when Ptolemy I, one of Alexander the Great's generals, became King of Egypt. It is therefore by far the most ancient of all authentically dated Greek records.

A deed of marriage is drawn up between Heraclides, a Greek mercenary, and Demetria, daughter of Leptines and Philotis, his wife, of the island of Kos, in the Aegean Sea. The bride brings a dowry of clothes and ornaments to the value of one talent. The deed is witnessed by six companions in arms, compatriots of the bridegroom.

The terms of the contract are worthy of notice. If the wife prove unfaithful, it says, she must leave her husband and lose all claim on the dowry, but three witnesses of the transgression must be produced, accepted by both parties. This shows that even in those remote times a woman was not a chattel under the husband's autocratic sway, but possessed certain well defined rights of her own.

Should the husband break faith with the wife, he must return the dowry in full and in addition pay proportionate damages. Here also the testimony of three accepted witnesses is required. Demetria, the deed further stipulates, was to join her lord in Egypt, but would afterward return with him to Hellas, where Heraclides possessed property and ships.—*New York Sun*, March 1, 1908.

The discovery in the foundations of the Temple of Fortune at Pompeii of a small walled in space containing an empty shell of a tortoise induced Professor Mau to write a treatise, which was read the other day before the Archaeological Society of Rome, on the ancient superstition of insuring the safety of a building by immuring a living creature in its walls.

The idea, explained the Professor, obtained in ancient Greece and throughout the Balkan Peninsula that no more effective protection against evil spirits could be found than by enclosing in the walls of a house a living being, preferably human, so that its soul might live in it for ever and guard it from unseen harm. When the city of Antioch was rebuilt after an earthquake by the Emperor Trajan a maiden was immured alive in one of the chief temples and a statue erected to her memory as the city's Goddess of Fortune.

Even to this day the ancient belief survives in the Near East, but a substitute is now generally found for the sacrifice. To propitiate the spirits an animal, either alive or slaughtered beforehand, is placed within the foundations or the walls, or more commonly a person's shadow is measured with a piece of string, and this measure, representing the person concerned, is then walled up in the masonry.

In the case of the Pompeian temple the tortoise was doubtless selected because it would keep alive for a long period without nourishment, and the belief prevailed that the charm was particularly potent while the victim remained alive.—*New York Sun*, May 2, 1908.

I recall a student who once added a little to a well-merited reputation for stupidity by translating in an examination paper Horace's line *nec vespertinus circum gemit ursus ovile* by "nor does the vespertinian ursus grunt around the ovile", and most of your readers have likely heard of the boy who, after translating the present *rex fugit* correctly, was told to translate it in the perfect, when he promptly said "The king has fleas".

EDWIN POST

All your readers must enjoy the little corner devoted to felicitous blunders in translation. Perhaps the following may deserve a place. In Ep. I. I. 104 Horace says to Maecenas *prave sectum stomacheris ob unguem*. This was once rendered, "You are sick at the stomach at the sight of a mutilated snake".

JOHN GREENE

A new entrance to the Forum has been planned at the end of the Via Cavour, where the temporary office of the excavations used to stand, and where now about 3,000 cubic meters of earth have been removed. It is hoped that the old gateway of the Farnese gardens on the Palatine, which is now scattered in fragments, may be made to serve as the entrance.—*New York Evening Post*, August 8.

LATIN VERSION

Many a green isle needs must be
In the deep sea of misery
Or the mariner, worn and wan,
Never thus could voyage on,
Day and night and night and day
Drifting on his weary way.

.....

Ay! may flowering islands lie
In the waters of wide misery!

—Shelley.

INSULAE FORTUNATAE

Insulas multas virides necesse est
in mari lato et misero iacere;
sin minus, fessus pavidusque nauta
pallidus ore

non iter posset facere usque vento
quotquot et noctes pereunt diesque,
fluctibus saevis agitatus atque
aequore fessus.

En, iacent late nitidae et refertae
floribus gratis homini dolenti
insulae tales in aqua patente, in
aequore luctus!

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY GEORGE DWIGHT KELLOGG

Not pleasures, as most know them, lead the way
Into the time beyond time; nor agree
With every year of life; and are not strong
In changing place, themselves unchanged to be.
But youth and age meet fairly at the feast
Made ready by the true joys of the mind;
By these prosperity becomes increased,
And refuge from distress in them we find.
At home they bring delight. When forth we fare
They burden not. They watch with us at night,
With steadfastness the hours of exile share
Or render every holiday more bright.
Thus, Cicero, you wrote of joys. We heard
And found an endless joy within your word.

NORMAL COLLEGE JEANNETTE S. SEWELL

It may be that Homer in the original Greek is not so much read in these days as he was a century ago. Nevertheless, estimated in dollars and cents, there is good reason for thinking that the Father of Epic Poetry has attained a valuation among the book collectors of this generation that is quite unprecedented in the annals of this kind of literary appreciation. At a sale of rare books in London this month \$1,650 was paid for a "first edition" of Homer. At a similar sale just a year ago the record price of \$1,900 was paid for a copy of the same edition—the editio princeps, issued at Florence in 1488. It is interesting to note, moreover, that the library from which the Homer was purchased this year at Sotheby's was the well-known "Hoskier Library", which was recently sent from New Jersey to England.—*New York Times*, July 11, '08.